



# INDY PFLAG NEWS

MAY 2009

**PFLAG meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., May 10 from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in the Youth Wing (North door), just west of Meridian on 86<sup>th</sup> St.**

## May 10 Meeting

*Rob Anderson and Wendra Foster are core team members of the Lilly Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Employees and More (GLEAM) affinity group. Both are active in their communities and proud gay parents of very supportive children. Rob and Wendra are excited about the opportunity to speak with PFLAG regarding diversity at Lilly and to share some of their personal experiences, as well as discuss potential GLEAM-PFLAG collaborations.*

*Rob and Wendra will present to the group following our confidential sharing time.*

## Mark your calendar now for Circle City IN Pride Parade & Festival Sat., June 13

Join Indy PFLAG members, friends and families as we march in the parade and staff our booth at the festival. We'll wear our new Indy PFLAG t-shirts - if you don't have yours yet, call Sarah now at 545-7034. We're proud of our customized design and it's such a great bargain at just \$15!



Back of shirt (Keeping Families Together)



Front of shirt

## Notes from Annette

One of the first reactions I had when my son came out to me was ignorance and fear. I did not have any knowledge about the gay community or what their issues were. I did not know what options there were for gay kids in Indianapolis. I had not yet joined PFLAG and I had no support, either for myself or my son.

After I joined PFLAG, I learned about an organization called IYG – Indiana Youth Group. Founded in 1987 as a response to the needs of self-identified Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning youth, IYG operates a drop-in and program facility donated by the Health Foundation of Great Indianapolis.

ITYG programs focus on 5 primary areas: Education and career development, character and leadership development, personal development, social development, and information and referral. IYG's successes have been honored by numerous and local groups including the City of Indiana, the Indiana State Department of Health, and Youth as Resources.

Indianapolis PFLAG partners with IYG to improve the lives of the youth who meet at the drop-in center. Mary Byrne, Executive Director, has spoken at PFLAG meetings to educate our members of the important role IYG plays in the GLBT community. There are also opportunities for PFLAG members to volunteer at IYG. Donations of snacks and meals for youth on programming nights are welcome. Food donors typically make a commitment of one meal each quarter. Volunteers can also work in the office, be a guest speaker, help support fundraisers by staffing an event, be a Greeter at the drop-in center, or become a Mentor to the youth.

Our PFLAG chapter is collecting food and household items to help stock their kitchen. In addition, there are various ways that monetary donations can be made. For more information, you can contact IYG by calling 317-541-8726 or accessing their website at [www.indianayouthgroup.org](http://www.indianayouthgroup.org).

If you have a GLBT child who is between the ages of 12 and 20, please consider bringing them down to the activity center. There the kids enjoy just being themselves and meeting other kids who are just like them. They can watch movies, play video games, and just talk. In addition, they can partake of various discussion and support groups.

PFLAG applauds the important work that IYG does. We are proud to have this organization in our own state. Help us keep the connection going that we have with IYG!



**Indy PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a group of people who share common experiences and provide support for each other. We listen and love. We help families have open, positive and loving relationships with GLBT children and we work for their civil and human rights.**

### Safe Schools Coalition

The month of April has brought two sad tragedies to the nation's attention. Recently, Jaheem Herrera, 11, of DeKalb County, GA was found dead in his bedroom closet. His death follows that of Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover (also age 11) of Springfield, MA, who hanged himself in his home after enduring constant bullying at school. Much of the harassment and bullying both young boys experienced was based on their perceived orientation, as well as other factors. And now communities, families and educators across the country are wondering what they can do to help stop this epidemic of bullying, and help create safer schools.

PFLAG is a Member Organization of the Safe Schools Coalition, an international public-private partnership in support of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth, that is working to help schools - at home and all over the world - become safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach, and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. There's a wealth of information on the Safe Schools Coalition website, including reports, handouts, brochures, postcards to print and tollfree hotline numbers. Go to <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/safe.html>

**The Chris Gonzalez Library & Archives** is located in the Indy Pride Office Building located at 815 Muskingham (1/2 block north of St. Clair between Illinois and Capitol – just behind Downtown Olly's). The Library is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. or by appointment. The Gonzalez Community Library currently has over 5,500 individual titles. The Library & Archives contain items of interest to the community (*i.e.*, back issues of GLBT publications, video tapes of local GLBT events, t-shirt, memorabilia, photos, art work).

Material may be borrowed for two weeks with a photo ID, current phone number and e-mail address. Since the Library has no replacement budget, new patrons wishing to borrow the Library's only copy of something will be asked to leave a \$20.00 cash deposit. The deposit will be refunded when the material is returned.

Donations and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged. Donations of all kinds have helped the Gonzalez Library grow into one of the larger GLBT collections in the U.S. Volunteers will allow us to expand the library's hours of operation.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Scott Vankirk at [www.indyprideinc.org](http://www.indyprideinc.org).

*Dignity Indianapolis, a Catholic GLBT and friends group, has a monthly 6:00 PM Mass and pitch-in meal on the second Sunday of each month at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church located at the Northwest corner of Illinois and 46th Streets.*

### We're collecting donations for Indiana Youth Group

*We have an ongoing wish list collection for Indiana Youth Group which you can bring to our meetings.*

*Some items needed are:*

**Art Supplies:** Canvases, Craft supplies (string, beads, etc.), Drawing paper, Art markers, Paint, Paint brushes, Professional artwork (for our annual Art Auction)

**Youth Social Activities:** Board games for ages 12 – 21, New or gently used LGBT-themed books, PG or PG-13 movies on DVD, X-box DVD game player, X-Box games, Wii and games

**Youth Activity Center:** Frozen entrees and healthy snacks, Soda in cans, AA & AAA batteries, Dish cloths, kitchen towels, sponges, Drano or Liquid Plumber, Endust or Pledge, First aid supplies, Flashlights, 16 x 20 and 16 x 25 furnace filters, Charcoal grill, charcoal, lighter fluid, Liquid hand soap, 30 or 35 gal. drawstring trash bags, 9 oz. plastic cups, Tall kitchen drawstring garbage bags, Cleaning supplies and toilet bowl cleaner, Vacuum cleaner replacement bags- Kenmore 50651, Youth Activity Center Improvements, ADA accessible ramp for front door, Brochure holders and plexi-glass racks, Gently used .newish computers and printers, Grass seed patch, Mini- or plantation blinds, Panic bars for exit doors, Large frost-free refrigerator/freezer, Collapsible canopy tent for pride fairs, Small trees and bushes, Waterproofing (for exit staircase), Concrete yard tiles, New roof, New picnic tables

*A more extensive list can be found at*

<http://www.indianayouthgroup.org/donate/wishlist.php>

### From Christopher Street to Main Street: The 2009 PFLAG National Convention

*Early Bird Registration & Travel Discounts Now Available.*

*Join Us in San Diego, California, October 9-11th!*

Join us in San Diego and learn how to build bridges, organize coalitions, work with straight allies and advocate for change. Be part of PFLAG's effective nationwide effort to take our movement for equality from urban centers to small towns . . . and everywhere in between.

**Go to <http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=1042> to learn more and see special early bird registration rates!**

**Indy PFLAG can now offer you the possibility to receive your newsletter as an email attachment.** You'll get it sooner, and we will save both work and money. It will come as a pdf file. If you print it, it will be identical to the mailed version. If you are willing to do this, please send a brief email to [info@indyflag.org](mailto:info@indyflag.org).

To talk with a parent who also has a gay son or lesbian daughter & to learn more about Indy PFLAG, please contact:  
**\*Sarah (317) 545-7034**                      **\*Charlene/Oran (317) 897-0126**                      **\*info@indyflag.org**  
**Indianapolis PFLAG, P.O. Box 441633, Indianapolis IN 46244-1633**                      **www.indyflag.org**